

Madame Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Rich Norstrom and I live in Helena.

I am the Project Manager for Valley Bank and have had the pleasure of working with Helena Industries for the past 3 years. In that time, we have developed a close business relationship and feel very fortunate to receive a well needed service, provided by the staff and consumers of the Work First Program. They have the important role of maintaining our grounds, assuring that our customers and community have a fresh, clean, liter free environment. Without the staff who; transport, oversee and mentor these individuals with developmental disabilities these types of programs would not exist.

The impact of their presence and service extend far greater then keeping our sites clean. Their pride and smiles are a gift and silent reminder of the values we believe in. The Valley Bank employees welcome them as if they were family. Each year we go Christmas shopping for the staff and consumers of Helena Industries as a small token of our graditude and appreciation: it has become something of a highlight for our employees.

\*Read e-mail: In closing I want to share with you one of the e-mails I received from a VB employee.

Rich,

I wanted to let you know that the gift party for the Helena Industries was a blast! All the staff and consumers were there. Each gift was a hit: it made me feel good about the time and attention we put into picking the right things. Also, I had some help from Kim Beckstrom and Becky Yancy. Kim baked cookies and Becky fixed up a hot pot of Coco to take with us, so we had everyone hopped up on sugar, then gave them presents! Eli was also able to swing by and help cheer them on.

Thank you for letting me be a part of this again. ~Mat

Madame Chairman and members of the committee, I want to thank you for your time and hope that you will consider and approve the necessary funding to allow these types of programs to continue. Thank you!